

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3499
ANSWERED ON:23.12.2008
EXPLORATION OF RESOURCES
Jogi Shri Ajit

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has conducted any survey in the country's territorial waters for the exploration of resources available under the sea surface bed and in the continental shelf area;
- (b) if so, the details of the survey alongwith the outcome thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any project for the exploitation of these resources; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES(SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Yes,Sir.

(b, c & d) The details of the survey along with their outcome and exploration of resources in territorial sea and the continental shelf pertaining to Fisheries, Petroleum and Natural Gas and Mineral Resources are briefly summarised below:

(i) Fisheries:

The exploratory surveys were carried out by the Fishery Survey of India (FSI) for survey and assessment of marine fishery resources in inshore and offshore waters along the east and west coasts, including Andaman and Nicobar islands waters.

The Indian National Centre for Ocean and Information Services (INCOIS), an institute under Ministry of Earth Sciences provides reliable and timely potential fishing zone (PFZ) advisories to the fishing community in coastal and island of India thrice a week. This has resulted into substantial reduction of the search time thus, saving diesel as well as increase of fish catch.

(ii) Petroleum and Natural Gas:

The Oil & Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) and Director General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) have carried out detailed seismic surveys in the Indian EEZ including the territorial sea and the continental shelf for harnessing the hydrocarbon resources.

The estimated offshore crude oil and natural gas reserves as on 2007 are 368 million tonnes and 785 billion cubic meters respectively. Out of the 34.11 million tonnes of crude oil production (provisional) and 32.27 billion cubic meters of natural gas production (provisional) during 2007-08, the production from offshore areas are 22.90 million tonnes of crude oil and 23.19 billion cubic meters of natural gas respectively.

(iii) Mineral Resources:

The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has carried out seabed survey within the EEZ of India including the territorial sea and the continental shelf for non-living resources and investigation related to the earth science. During the course of survey, GSI have delineated economic heavy mineral sands comprising of ilmenite, rutile, zircon, sillimanite, monazite and garnet within the territorial waters, continental shelf and beyond, within the EEZ of India.